

January 31, 2011

KENTUCKY: The first full week of the New Year was very cold. The first half of the week highs were in the 40s with lows in the 20s. By the second half of the week highs were in the low 30s to mid 20s, with lows in the teens to even single digits. Along with windy conditions, this put livestock cold stress in the emergency category late in the week. The Commonwealth received snowfall during the week, with locations having received a dusting to around 3 inches. Also, nearly 10% of the state is still in severe drought. Temperatures for the period averaged 27.1 degrees across the state which was 6.4 degrees cooler than normal and 9.6 degrees cooler than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 38.8 in the West to 35.7 in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.13 inches statewide which was 0.76 inches below normal and 14.6% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.04 inches, Central 0.15 inches, Bluegrass 0.07 inches and East 0.25 inches, which was 0.89, 0.8, 0.69 and 0.66 inches below normal.

The second week in January was another cold one in the Commonwealth. High temperatures stayed around 30 for most of the week, with lows in the 20s and even teens. Precipitation across the state was very light, and came in the form of light snow. Due to the light amounts of precipitation nearly 10% of the state remains in severe drought. Temperatures for the period averaged 27.0 degrees across the state which was 6.4 degrees cooler than normal and no change to the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 34.7 in the West to 32.3 in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.13 inches statewide which was 0.73 inches below normal and 15.1% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.09 inches, Central 0.11 inches, Bluegrass 0.13 inches and East 0.18 inches, which was 0.81, 0.81, 0.61 and 0.71 inches below normal.

The third week of January experienced below normal temperatures and precipitation. The week started off in the 40s for highs, but by mid week a cold front from a passing low pressure system moved thru the state. This dropped temperatures all across the state to well below the seasonal average. The system also produced widespread snowfall in the state. Accumulations were highest in the northern portion of the state, around 5 to 6 inches. Elsewhere in the state, accumulations ranged from 1 to 4 inches. Temperatures for the period averaged 28 degrees across the state which was 5 degrees cooler than normal and 1 degree cooler than the previous week. High temperatures averaged from 34 in the West to 36 in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.56 inches statewide which was 0.26 inches below normal and 68% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.49 inches, Central 0.67 inches, Bluegrass 0.66 inches and East 0.43 inches, which was 0.38, 0.21, 0.05 and 0.41 inches below normal.

The last week of the month was the first full week of the year that was warmer than normal. However, a low pressure system moved thru the region, which dropped some heavy wet snow across most of the state and rainfall in the far southeast. Later in the week temperatures warmed

up to some of the highest temperatures we have seen this year, highs in the 50s and even 60s in some locations. Skies even cleared up on Saturday for a mostly sunny day. Current U.S. Drought Monitor has over 60% of the Commonwealth as abnormally dry and around 7% still in severe drought. Temperatures for the period averaged 36 degrees across the state which was 3 degrees warmer than normal and 8 degrees warmer than the previous period. High temperatures averaged from 44 in the West to 46 in the East. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.55 inches statewide which was 0.23 inches below normal and 70% of normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.27 inches, Central 0.54 inches, Bluegrass 0.45 inches and East 0.94 inches, which was -0.56, -0.30, -0.23 and 0.16 inches respectively from normal.

Farmers were kept busy tending to their livestock as periods of cold weather caused stress to animals. Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the state.